The Afghan Women's Network
2003 Strategic Plan

Over the course of several weeks the Afghan Women's Network sought to review its Strategic Plan, developed in 2002 with the assistance of the Women's Commission. The process of review sought to clarify the objectives of the Network for the next two years and ultimately renew member commitment to the plan. The Strategic Plan below is the result of two workshops (in Peshawar and Kabul) and informal consultations with members regarding their aspirations for the Network. The final draft of the Strategic Plan was approved by the Executive Committee of AWN in February 2003.

Vision

The Afghan Women's Network envisions an Afghanistan in which all members – women, children, and men – participate equally. Furthermore, the members aspire to create an Afghan community which values, respects, and encourages the tremendous capacities of women and their contributions to Afghan culture and society.

Mission Statement

The Afghan Women's Network is a non-partisan network of women and women's NGOs working to empower Afghan women and ensure their equal participation in Afghan society. The members of the Network also recognize the value and role of children as the future of Afghanistan and, as such, regard the empowerment and protection of children as fundamental to their work. The Network seeks to enhance the effectiveness of its members by fostering partnership and collaboration between members, undertaking advocacy and lobbying, and building their individual capacities.

Strategic Aims

The Network strives:

1. To provide a participatory forum for consultation and coordinated action amongst members;
2. To advocate on behalf of and represent the views of its members to the Afghan Government, UN agencies, and other relevant parties; and
3. To enhance the effectiveness of its members through the facilitation of capacity building.

Objectives

To realize these aims, AWN works to:

1.1 Collect, coordinate, and disseminate information among members;
1.2 Encourage, facilitate and coordinate consultation and coordination amongst members; and
1.3 Establish and maintain networks/relationships with key stakeholders and like-minded organizations.

2.1 Facilitate dialogue and the flow of information on issues of concern to members;
2.2 Facilitate research and analysis on issues of concern to members;

2.3 Advocate to the Afghan Government, UN agencies and other relevant parties on issues of concern to members; and
2.4 Represent the views of members to the Afghan Government, UN agencies and other relevant parties.

3.1 Develop, implement and maintain capacity building mechanisms for members;
3.2 Provide training for members as per the needs of members;
3.3 Raise profile of Network and its members; and
3.4 Facilitate contact between members and donors and other relevant parties.

Activities

Over the next two years, AWN will work to achieve its objectives by:

FORUM FOR CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

- Producing a newsletter and magazine to distribute information between members and interested parties;
- Holding annual meetings for the election of the AWN Executive and setting AWN priorities;
- Establishing working committees of members on issues of concern to members;
- Holding monthly meetings of members for open discussion of issues;
- Providing meeting halls in Peshawar and Kabul for members to come together;
- Maintaining a members directory for Network members and donors; and
- Maintaining links with MoWA, UNIFEM and other like minded organizations.

ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION

- Identifying issues of concern to members in the annual and monthly meetings;
- Presenting research and information on these issues in AWN's magazine;
- Establishing working committees to outline the targets and strategies of AWN's advocacy campaigns;
- Preparing submissions based on working committees for presentation to the Afghan Government, UN agencies and other relevant parties;
- Developing relationships with international organizations working for women; and
- Undertaking advocacy campaigns on issues of concern to members.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Facilitating and/or running capacity building workshops for members;
- Providing scholarships for individual members to build their skills through further education
- Maintaining Networking Centre to provide members with access to internet and library;
- Establishing and maintaining an AWN website with details of the Network and its members;
- Introducing donors to members according to their individual objectives; and
- Raising the profile of the Network and its members through activities at which donors and other members of the international community are present.

The above table of activities is by no means exhaustive and instead represents the direction which AWN seeks to pursue over the course of the next two years.

Other activities deemed appropriate for the Network by its members and, in particular, by the Executive Committee will be undertaken in line with the strategic aims and objectives of this plan.